



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

Post Office Box 600
200 West Forsyth Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/232-2682
904/232-2620 (Fax)

80 North Hughey Avenue,
Room 201
Orlando, Florida 32801
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (Fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

April 10, 2003

FORMER U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR SENIOR SCIENTIST SENTENCED

TAMPA -- United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced the sentencing yesterday of **GARY W. HILL**, age 55, by United States District Judge James D. Whittemore for embezzlement and illegal conversion of government property. Hill, a former senior scientist with the Department of Interior Geological Survey in St. Petersburg, Florida, was sentenced to five years probation including six months home detention, \$34,000 restitution, \$3,000 fine, and \$100 special assessment.

Hill entered a plea of guilty to the offense before Magistrate Judge Thomas G. Wilson on November 18, 2002, and admitted that from about November 6, 2000, through about January 31, 2002, he had embezzled and converted to his own use aquarium equipment, fish, coral, and other supplies which belonged to the United States government, specifically the Center for Coastal and Marine Geology, located at 600 4th Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida.

This case was investigated by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Department of Interior and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald L. Hansen of the Public Corruption Section of the United States Attorney's Office.